

## CLAIMS

1. A method, comprising the steps of:

detecting that an operation on a register and counter block is needed;

enabling a clock signal to the register and counter block; and

5           executing the operation on the register and counter block through employment of the clock signal.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

disabling the clock signal to the register and counter block after execution of the operation.

10       3. The method of claim 1, wherein the executing step comprises the step of:

programming a control register in the register and counter block.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the register and counter block is in a media access control (MAC) component.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the detecting step comprises the step of:

15           detecting an interrupt signal from the media access control component.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the enabling step comprises employing the interrupt signal to enable the clock signal.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the executing step comprises:

reading at least one of a remote monitor (RMON) counter and a status register in the register and counter block.

5 8. A method for reading a storage component in a media access control component comprising the steps of:

detecting an update to the storage component;

providing a clock signal to the storage component in response to detection of the update; and

10 reading the storage component through employment of the clock signal.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the storage component is one of a status register and a remote monitor (RMON) counter.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

disabling the clock signal after the storage component has been read.

15 11. A method for programming a storage component in a media access control component comprising:

determining that the storage component needs to be programmed;

providing a clock signal to the control register in response to a determination that the storage component needs to be programmed; and

programming the storage component through employment of the clock signal.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

5        disabling the clock signal after the storage component has been programmed.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the storage component is a control register.

14. A system comprising:

a detection unit that detects that an operation on a register and counter block is needed;

10        a clock enable unit that enables a clock signal to the register and counter block in response to a detection that the operation is needed; and

application logic that executes the operation on the register and counter block through employment of the clock signal.

15. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

15        a clock disable unit that disables the clock signal to the register and counter block after execution of the operation.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the application logic comprises:

a control register program unit that programs a control register in the register and counter block.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the register and counter block is part of a media access control component.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the detection unit comprises:

a logic component that detects an interrupt signal from the media access control

5 component

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the clock enable unit comprises a logic component that employs the interrupt signal to enable the clock signal.

20. The system of claim 14, wherein the application comprises:

at least one of a status register read unit that reads a status register and a remote

10 monitor counter read unit that reads a remote monitor (RMON) counter.

21. A system for performing an operation on a storage component in a media access control component comprising:

clock gating logic that detects that an operation on the storage component is to be

15 performed and enables a clock signal to the storage component in response to a detection that an operation is to be performed; and

application logic that performs the operation on the storage component through employment of the clock signal.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the storage component is one of a status register, a control register, and a remote monitor (RMON) counter.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the clock gating logic disables the clock signal after the operation has been performed.